

Legends of Emeralds

by Edmund Russell



I SALUTE thee, O Emerald, magic gem!" cries Michelet to this souvenir of green prairies, ocean depths and clear-cleft wells of peaceful power.

It was occult to all ancient peoples. It shone midst the verberna leaves of the crowns of Druid priestesses, in the tangle of dark hair, above the unutterable yearning of their eyes of splendor, as never to-day in the conventional correctness of machine-made setting.

Color of universal harmony; emblem of hope, joy, abundance; it cured epilepsy, eased the pangs of childbirth and brought sleep to tired brains. It healed all ocular diseases. Indeed, so pure was its power that when the eye of a serpent met the eye of an emerald the serpent became immediately blind, or perhaps had to wear glasses like the cobra the rest of his life. Seeresses of old used to hold an emerald beneath their tongues so the incoming wave of psychic vibration might be met by its force and not utterly overwhelm them.

Light seems to traverse, to linger and caress this lovely stone, whilst the diamond seems to turn back the reflection so violently it strikes one almost as a blow.

Vert-de-pre—the emerald is sister



JEWEL WITH COR EMERALD

THE EMERALD EMBLEM OF HOPE, JOY AND ABUNDANCE

IT SHOWS MIDST THE VERBERNA LEAVES OF THE CROWNS OF DRUID PRIESTESSES

to the leaves and, like the sapphire, is best by day and shrinks from artificial light. Consecrated to the month of May, it is said to symbolize the charity that springs from a well of goodness in the heart and its color, nature's favorite, to speak of hope and new spiritual birth.

No other gem holds as many fascinating legends or haunting historical memories; they go back to immemorial time when the Incas worshipped the goddess Emerelda in the person of a stone as big as an ostrich egg and offered other emeralds to consort with it, so that the Spaniards were able to seize the votive treasures of centuries. The five emeralds which Cortez stole from the crown of Montezuma were of enormous size, rough-cut in the form of sacred symbols of sex worship. Even Cortez was so enamored of them that he refused to sell them to the empress and so lost favor at court.

There is still preserved at Rome the emerald sent to the pope by Peru after the Catholic conquest of that country and the name "Emerald Isle," given to Ireland, was from a magnificent ring sent by Pope Adrian to Henry II. when he took dominion over it.

The orientals have always known how to handle this wonderful crystal, setting in peacock-toned embroidery of enamel, keeping its irregularities of form, perhaps simply smoothing the edges so as to preserve as much color as possible. Indian princes often wear emerald rings fully two inches across. In the shrine of the great Tooth temple of Kandy, Ceylon, there is a Buddha of fabulous value carved from a single gem. I have seen in the treasury of the sultan of Turkey whole robes encrusted with emeralds, with superb single stones of the purest water set in the handles of scimitars. There were prayers in the interior of the Taj Mahal spelled in emeralds before the British soldiers dug them out with their knives.

We read of Nero viewing the games "men played with death, where death must win" through emerald eyelids. Caligula's consort leaped from the verd-antique balconies of the golden hill adorned with two millions of our dollars' worth of emeralds and pearls.

Napoleon wore through some of his bloodiest battles the great emerald torn from the throat of Charlemagne when they dared to disturb his slumber and to this talisman the Man of Destiny ascribed his power to sleep at will and as long or little as he would. When Isabey was to paint the last portrait of Josephine, she said: "Paint me in emeralds to say that my sorrow will be ever green, but surround them with diamonds to portray the undying purity of my love."

Of course royal people hold the finest examples of this gem, which, in conjunction with pearls, they prefer to all others. Queen Isabella was very proud of her carved emeralds, but carving destroys the greatest beauty of the stone, the perfect limpidity of its color. An Italian princess possesses the most famous parure in Europe, enhancing her princely beauty as she stands against the faded green tapestries, the ornate and malachite of her Roman palace—a never-to-be-forgotten picture.

body and soul expression spoiled by the self-consciousness of trying to hold together so many unrelated parts.

The most splendid regalia at the Viennese court is that of the archduchess Marie Josepha, wife of Duke Otho. She has just had them set in a new and massive design by the court jeweler. A stomacher we give as illustration. The large emeralds are so arranged that they can be detached and other colored stones clasped in the same settings; thus the archduchess has rubies, sapphire, pink topaz and immense diamonds of the same size, so she may change to suit her toilets. Also all the sprays can be taken to pieces and worn as smaller ornaments or massed together in different designs. This fashion was introduced by the Empress Elizabeth who delighted in such combination and would cover the whole front of a court garment with complex design. Such may be done with a modern artistic design if made by a special jeweler, and is convenient to those who may only possess a few pieces. Thus a girdle may separate into brooch, pendant, cloak clasp, necklace, at will.

There is a vaporous blonde actress at the Comedie Francaise whose favorite color is sky blue, which she clasps with a girdle of emeralds so valuable that a big policeman never loses sight of her when wearing it on the stage or off. This appreciation of the charm of related blue and green and violet is comparatively new to us, though always known to the orient and to antiquity.

Emeralds are usually cut in simpler form than diamonds and the corundum, or ruby, family of gems. The table cut, square or oblong, with large, flat face and beveled edges, the lower surface in long, narrow facets. Their value depends upon the tone, transparency and especially in the western world the flawlessness of the gem, which, if of dark velvet depth may even be worth more than the diamond, though the price put upon all expensive gems by the leading American jeweler is entirely fictitious. The "flawless emerald" has become a classic comparison for perfection, as nearly every stone is full of little rifts or clouds or discolorations that make it unfit for the split superlatives of modern taste; to the oriental mind nothing is more beautiful than beauty; each stone is but a note of color in a general harmony and the eastern jeweler has no prejudice against "flaws" or "off colors" and finds worthy and dignified place for many a gem that our jewel butchers would inconspicuously cast off.

At a recent dinner I noted the chain on a beautiful arm next to me. Heavy links of bright polished gold, carrying with little relation five great cabochon emeralds, divided by four large diamonds, soldered on to them.

If the diamonds had been replaced with turquoise or violet-beryls or olivines or peacock opals, their great value would have sufficed to pay for some real art work in enamel or design. Then the emeralds themselves were so "perfectly matched" they might as well have been bits of glass. So equal in tone all mysterious magic gone—no thought of Druid forehead or imprisoned spring—right from the factory these looked

to be. One thought of the enormous waste in cutting them all the same shape. Each should have been of slightly different form, their setting following as though the artist were loath to lose any tittle of beauty; the edges should show the touch of his creative hand, perhaps even the hammer marks. Each link speaks individual strength and feeling in its twist, and should be encrusted with grains of gold, beads of enamel or tiny gems, and some continuous design run even on the inside.

For those who are really rich, yet may have but little money, there are other beautiful green gems.

The peridot should be given sacred honors, for it is the only gem that has ever been known to fall from heaven, having occasionally been found in those mysterious masses called aerolites.

Like some rare sea thing in sea tones is the pendant of peridots, olivines, aquamarines and violet tinted pearls. Half lost in gauzes, it would encourage and reveal a personality that would be completely extinguished by

the diamonds of the archduchess.

Don't value the emerald on account of its commercial value but on account of the matchless value of its tone in relation to other tones. Sometimes a touch of enamel, or chrysoprase or turquoise does as well. If you can attain to its glory, it is a great privilege to wear it with other things that show your right to such beauty, but not simply in display, as if bidding for the prize of a gem show.

LONDON'S OLD ROMAN WALL

Visitors to London whose tastes lie in the direction of exploring ancient remains will be gratified to learn that the Society of Antiquaries has succeeded in securing the preservation of a very fine fragment of the great Roman wall around London, which has just been laid bare, a London letter to the New York Sun says. From time to time portions of the great structure, the external wall of defense built about the city in the fourth or fifth century, have been uncovered in digging foundations while rebuilding streets or houses. These have rarely escaped demolition. The latest discovery is to be preserved for the benefit of the public.

It is situated near Newgate street, close to a new annex of the general postoffice. The fragment, which is that of a great curved bastion, is 50 feet long, 20 feet high and 8 feet wide. The present summit lies several feet below the surface of the ground. The whole is in a wonderful state of preservation.

The material is that known as "Kentish rag," supported by heavy Roman bricks and showing clearly the characteristic layers or bands of red tiles, such as may be seen at Burgh castle, Pevensey and Richborough. The interesting relic is to be built around, so that it will lie in a cave which may be entered by stairs and inspected by artificial light. The line of the great Roman wall is well known and much of it undoubtedly remains below the houses to-day, which are largely built upon it as upon the securest of foundations.

POLE FAKER OF LONG AGO

It is told of a titled Englishman that when his son explained his folly in going down a coal mine by saying that he spoiled his clothes so as to be able to say that he had performed the feat, replied: "Why did you say that you had been down the mine and did not go?" This method appears to have been followed by one James Knox de Bolduc, a monk, who, according to a Paris contemporary, says the Army and Navy Journal, made his polar voyage in 1865. This is the pole as described by this Bolduc:

"At the pole one finds the place where all the waves of the sea concentrate to disappear in the same whirlpool. Four great islands surround this precipice, separated by four great canals, succeeding which are the divided seas. An enormous rock, quite black, and 23 miles in circumference, marks the pole itself.

"The unfortunate ships which venture into these latitudes are immediately lost, if they are not assisted by favorable winds."

The Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore, India, suggests that the account of Bolduc may be found in the "Teutsche Acta Eruditorum" (1713),

ENDS AN OLD TOWN

"Athens of Missouri" Disincorporated by Court Order.

Edinburg Dies a Natural Death When Railroads Pass It By—Noted for Beauty and an Excellent College.

Trenton, Mo. — Edinburg, known over the state before the war as the "Athens of Missouri," and for many years the rival of Trenton as a trading point and political center, where many men, afterward prominent in state affairs received their first collegiate training, was disincorporated recently by an order of the county court.

The order marks the last step in the little town's retrogression since the Chicago, Rock Island & Quincy and Omaha & Kansas City railways passed the village by.

The story of the settlement, growth and decline of the village of Edinburg is full of interest. The town came into existence in 1838 when Isaac J. Harvey built a store there. Not so favorably situated as Trenton, the growth of the town did not compare with that of the county seat until after 1850. At the half-way mark of the century Grand River college was established in Edinburg.

Then came an era of prosperity. The fame of the school grew, and instructors of the best were numbered in the faculty. The pretty little town was in itself an attraction to students, and the name of Edinburg became widely known. Business boomed, the town took on a thriving air and the county seat feared for its own growth.

Then came the war and progress stopped. The luster of the classic school became dim. After the war there was a revival of learning in Edinburg, and the prospect was fair again, until the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad came through in 1871 and marked Trenton as the future city of the section.

Business projects were killed in Edinburg, and the village lost ground, but the fame of the school still lived.



Grand River College.

Another railroad came through from Quincy and Edinburg's hopes quickened that it would reach that place. When this failed, however, the doom of the village was sealed.

Steadily since then the town has lost in population and business. A few years ago the college itself was removed to Gallatin in order to secure railroad advantages. In December, 1909, the petition for disincorporation was presented to the court. J. G. Mcwald was appointed trustee for the incorporation, to settle up its affairs, and classic Edinburg is no more.

Quick Lunch in England.

The quick lunch has been tried in London, and has failed as an advertisement. But many of us lunch quickly, and this writer went into the oyster shop for his half dozen, and felt his elbow pinched. He turned and saw a friend who knew. "Three natives," he said, "and a glass of chablis." "Is that all you have for lunch?" was the immediate question. "That's only the beginning," he explained, and as we stood elbow to elbow at the oyster bar he expounded to me his method of the itinerary lunch.

It takes him two hours at midday. He begins with three oysters at the bar. Then he walks for half an hour with an objective of the place where kidneys on toast are at their best. Having disposed of these, he walks for another half an hour, and finds the place where stewed cheese can be relied on. By that time it is three o'clock, and he walks home and begins work again, having had his exercise and his lunch and his digestive interval. Also he has seen a bit of London, which is useful to a delineator of life. The itinerary lunch may be recommended to a man of inquiring mind and sedentary habit.—London Chronicle.

A Peculiar Accident.

A curious and serious accident occurred at Liverpool, England, in connection with work in the graving dock on the Cunard liner Mauretania. A gang of men were engaged in bringing to the quay-side a steel plate of the vessel's hull. Just as the operation was in progress the tidal chain snapped. This set all the ropes attaching the ships to the quay in a state of dangerous commotion. Five of the laborers on the quay were knocked down. One, named Wilson, was struck by a rope with such force that he turned a somersault, and, falling on his head, was picked up dead. The other four men were removed to a hospital.

Appropriate.

"Jobbins is so foolish over that pet dog of his. He told me he was going to have a tree for it."

"Then I hope he selected a tree with plenty of bark."

MISSOURI STATE NEWS

Oldest Log House in Missouri.

Probably the oldest occupied house in Missouri is the one known as the Swafford home, one and one-half miles north of Rayville. This old structure is of the old double log and clay and stick chimney pattern and was built almost a century ago. The date is not known, but it is remembered by the oldest persons. It is said that this building was built by a man by the name of McElwee, who was believed to possess a great amount of valuable minerals, which were discovered in the cliffs surrounding this place. "Uncle Nathan" Swafford became owner of it more than 65 years ago and up until about three years ago, when he died, he and his family lived there. Mrs. Swafford died later and the remainder of the family, which consists of two daughters lived there until a few days ago. The old log house consists of two rooms, and between them is a hall, from which both rooms are entered. The floors are of the old-fashioned hewed log kind and on the west is the stick chimney.

Mute Wants Education.

For the first time at the University of Missouri, a deaf mute has applied for entrance. He has written Dean F. B. Mumford, of the college of agriculture, asking that he be permitted to enroll for the course in agriculture. Dean Mumford has advised him to enter for the regular classes. Dean Mumford says a mute able to read could spend much time in the agricultural library and could do laboratory work with the written instructions before him. "I shall not give the man's name now, as it might embarrass him," said Dean Mumford. "If he comes we will do what we can to give him an idea of modern methods of farming. I know every teacher will make a special effort to teach the unfortunate man. His home is in Northeast Missouri.

Fire Destroys Diplomas.

Although R. D. Miller, professor of English, at the University of Missouri has two degrees, and his wife one degree, neither can prove it, for their degrees and diplomas, that is the parchment they were printed on, were destroyed by fire. Professor Miller lost a Bachelor of Arts diploma, and a Doctor of Philosophy diploma, and Mrs. Miller lost her Bachelor of Arts diploma from the Woman's college of Baltimore. Professor Miller's degrees were from Johns Hopkins university.

State Fair Plans.

At a joint meeting of the state board of agriculture and the Missouri state fair board a contract was awarded to R. F. Sellers of Sedalia for the construction of the woman's building on the state fair grounds at a cost of \$30,000. Well's band of St. Louis was secured to furnish music for the fair during the first week in October, and Secretary John T. Stinson was authorized to arrange for airship races as a curtain raiser on the opening day.

Suicide Craze at Columbia.

The third suicide in Columbia in ten days was committed when James E. Kemper, a well-known retired farmer, shot himself through the heart with a shotgun, using a broom to push the trigger. Kemper was a sufferer from heart disease and in paroxysm of pain went out on his front porch and killed himself.

A Parkville Farmers' Institute.

A farmers' institute has been organized at Parkville with George B. Tugle, department of agriculture of Park college, president; W. G. Gano, first vice president; J. W. Brenner, second vice president; C. P. Breen, secretary; W. G. Leavelle, treasurer. It is planned to hold regular annual meetings in the future.

Stock Judging Medals Awarded.

Three medals were awarded to the winners in the third annual live stock judging contest held for the students in the short course in the college of agriculture of the University of Missouri. C. T. Nelson of Bunceeton, Mo., won the Holland-Percheron medal as the best judge of Percheron horses. The medal was offered by the Holland stock farm of Springfield. W. C. Prewitt, Jr., of Clarksville, won the Culver-Aberdeen-Angus medal for proficiency in judging beef cattle. The medal was offered by Paul M. Culver of Edgerton, Mo. The Kinloch farm swine medal offered by the Kinloch farm of Kirksville, was awarded to Glenn O. Yeder of Holden, for proficiency in judging hogs.

George B. Ellis Resigns.

George B. Ellis has resigned as secretary of the Missouri State Board of Agriculture. He will be succeeded by Thomas C. Wilson of St. Louis county. Mr. Ellis will become managing editor of the Missouri Farmer and Breeder, a stock journal published by William Hirth at Columbia.

Warrensburg Veteran Dead.

Frederick Baur, a civil war veteran, aged 74 years, was found dead in his home at Warrensburg. He had not been seen by neighbors for several days and they broke open his door and found him lying dead on the floor.

Fire at Moundville.

The business section of the town of Moundville, ten miles southwest of Nevada, was wiped out by fire, only one store remaining. Eight houses were destroyed.